

REMARKS

Initially, it is noted that this Preliminary Amendment is in the newly approved revised format of amendments, such that a complete listing of claims is included and each section begins on a separate page of this paper.

Claims 1-4, 18-21, 34 and 48-54 have been cancelled because they are directed to an invention elected for prosecution in the recently allowed parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. 09/847,124, filed May 2, 2001). Accordingly, Claims 5-17, 22-33, 35-47 and 55-66 remain pending in the present divisional patent application.

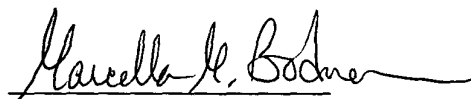
In addition, the specification of the present divisional application has been amended, by the foregoing amendments, to include the required cross-reference to related applications, whereby the present divisional application claims priority benefit from the non-provisional parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, as well as from the provisional application relied upon by the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

In view of the foregoing remarks and explanation, it is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, early and favorable action on the present application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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